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**Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues**
**Eleventh session**
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Items 3, 4 and 9 of the provisional agenda*

**Discussion on the special theme for the year: "The Doctrine of Discovery: its enduring impact on indigenous peoples and the right to redress for past conquests (articles 28 and 37 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples)**

**Human rights**

**Future work of the Permanent Forum, including issues of the Economic and Social Council and emerging issues**

# Ongoing priorities and themes

## Note by the secretariat

*Summary*

The present note provides an overview of developments under the mandated areas of work of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues since its tenth session. The report highlights relevant activities and priorities that have been drawn from various reports of entities of the United Nations system and of other intergovernmental organizations, as well as activities and reports of members of the Permanent Forum and its secretariat.

* E/C.19/2012/1.

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# I. Introduction

1. At its tenth session, in 2011, the Permanent Forum conducted a review of the recommendations made at its previous nine sessions in a number of fields, including: (a) economic and social development; (b) the environment; and (c) free, prior and informed consent. The secretariat of the Forum submitted an analytical report on the above three areas to assist in the assessment of implementation of the Forum's recommendations (E/C.19/2011/L.2). As part of its methods of work, the Forum also held in-depth dialogue with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and issued recommendations. The members of the Forum agreed to undertake an assessment of all of the Forum's recommendations and to identify gaps in implementation. In this regard, the Forum requested the secretariat prepare a report on the implementation of its recommendations for its eleventh session, in 2012, analysing the challenges as well as the associated issues that United Nations agencies and funds, Member States and indigenous peoples' organizations have faced.[1] That report is part of the documentation for the eleventh session.[2]

2. In November 2011, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs invited written contributions from entities of the United Nations system and from other intergovernmental organizations, Member States and non-governmental organizations on the special theme of the Permanent Forum for 2012 and also on the implementation of its recommendations. As of 31 January 2012, written submissions had been received from the following entities of the United Nations system: UNICEF, the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the Asian Development Bank and the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). Submissions were also received from the following Member States: Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Chile, Denmark (including the autonomous Government of Greenland), Ecuador, Kuwait, Mexico and Paraguay.

### Obstacles identified by United Nations agencies and Member States

3. A number of reports from Member States, intergovernmental agencies, funds and programmes identified obstacles in the implementation of norms and policies on indigenous peoples' issues, including lack of disaggregated data at the national and local levels in order to improve the planning process, and difficulty in implementing some recommendations of the Permanent Forum that may require the use of formal procedures.

### Trends

4. From the reports submitted for the eleventh session, a number of trends have emerged:

(a) An increasing number of entities of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations are developing guidelines and policies on indigenous issues. The policy of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) on indigenous and tribal peoples was approved in 2010 by the Director-

[1] E/2011/43, para. 5.

[2] E/C.19/2012/7.

General and his cabinet and is being widely disseminated. The implementation of this policy is currently under way with the support of an interdepartmental working group. The United Nations Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries (UN-REDD) is seeking to engage with indigenous peoples through their representation on its Policy Board, along with civil society representation, and through the framework of the development of guidelines on free, prior and informed consent. During the first half of 2012, the guidelines will undergo a review process and the finalized guidelines will be presented to the Policy Board. There are continuing efforts in developing guidelines and policies on indigenous peoples by United Nations agencies, including UNESCO;

(b) An increase in technical advice and capacity-building activities in the area of indigenous peoples' issues for United Nations staff, Government officials and indigenous peoples at the country level, in which a number of United Nations agencies have also been involved;

(c) Some States are making commitments to implementing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples through laws and at the policy level in mainstreaming indigenous peoples' issues in both consultation and service delivery areas.

**Studies to be submitted at the eleventh session of the Permanent Forum**

5. The following studies were prepared by members of the Permanent Forum for submission to the eleventh session:

(a) An analysis on the duty of the State to protect indigenous peoples affected by transnational corporations and other business enterprises (Paimaneh Hasteh) (E/C.19/2012/3);

(b) Study on shifting cultivation and the sociocultural integrity of indigenous peoples (Raja Devasish Roy, Bertie Xavier and Simon William M'Viboudoulou) (E/C.19/2012/8);

(c) Impacts of land use change and climate change on indigenous reindeer herders' livelihoods and land management, including culturally adjusted criteria for indigenous land uses (Anna Naykanchina) (E/C.19/2012/4);

(d) Indigenous participatory mechanisms in the Arctic Council, the Circumpolar Inuit Declaration on Resource Development Principles in Inuit Nunaat, and the Laponia management system (Dalee Sambo Dorough) (E/C.19/2012/10).

The above studies are relevant to various items on the agenda of the Forum, including the special theme of the year.

# II. World Conference on Indigenous Peoples

6. On 21 December 2010, in a historic decision, the General Assembly adopted resolution 65/198, by which it decided to organize a high-level plenary meeting of the Assembly, to be known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, to be held in 2014. The aim of the conference is to share perspectives and best practices on the realization of the rights of indigenous peoples, and to pursue the objectives of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

7. The President of the General Assembly will conduct open-ended consultations with Member States and with representatives of indigenous peoples within the framework of the Permanent Forum, as well as with the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples, in order to determine the modalities for the meeting, including the participation of indigenous peoples in the Conference.

8. On 13 and 14 January 2012, Myrna Cunningham Kain, Chair of the Permanent Forum, and Chief Edward John, a member of the Forum, attended the Open-ended Indigenous Peoples' Brainstorming Meeting on the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, 2014, held in Copenhagen. The meeting was organized by the Greenland Self-Rule Representation in Copenhagen, the Sami Parliament of Norway and the International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs. The discussions at the meeting centred on a number of issues related to the possible modalities of the conference, including the participation of indigenous peoples in the event. The conference appears as an item on the agenda of the eleventh session of the Permanent Forum.

# III. Developments under the mandated areas and special themes of the Permanent Forum

## A. Economic and social development

9. Extractive industries, and the effects of their work on indigenous peoples and their lands, continue to dominate discussion in the area of economic and social development. In his report to the General Assembly at its sixty-sixth session (A/66/288), the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples, James Anaya, addressed the topic of extractive industries, pointing out the negative effects these industries have on the rights of indigenous peoples. He stated that there is a need to facilitate a common understanding among indigenous peoples, Governments and private companies about the key issues and applicable human rights standards in this context.

10. In September 2011, the Chair of the Permanent Forum attended an expert meeting on greening the economy with agriculture in Paris. The meeting, hosted by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) at its headquarters, was attended by selected experts from seven developing countries, whose participation in the event was funded by FAO. Agenda items included: low footprint and productive food and agriculture systems; decent rural livelihoods, green jobs and land tenure; resilience to shocks of low-carbon food systems; quality and health of green food; and policy coherence for the concept of greening the economy with agriculture.

11. Also in September 2011, the Chair of the Permanent Forum participated in the expert group meeting entitled "Enabling rural women's economic empowerment: institutions, opportunities and participation", in Accra. The Chair spoke on the role of rural institutions in addressing women's needs, with a focus on indigenous women, highlighting some of the demands and experiences of rural indigenous women, in particular, their experiences resulting from institutional policies directed towards them, and participatory strategies and proposals promoted by indigenous women within their own organizations to improve conditions in rural areas.

12. In October 2011, the Policy Board of the United Nations Indigenous Peoples' Partnership held a meeting in New York to review and approve proposals for United Nations country programmes designed in partnership with indigenous peoples. Mr. Devasish Roy, member of the Permanent Forum and co-chair of the Partnership, as well as other indigenous experts, including Mr. Adelfo Regino Montes (Secretary of Indigenous Affairs, Government of the State of Oaxaca, Mexico) and Ms. Angela Riley (Director of American Indian Studies Center and Professor of Law at the University of California, Los Angeles, and Chief of the Supreme Court of the Citizen Potawatomi Nations, United States of America) actively participated in the meeting. Mr. Roy emphasized that the proposals were reviewed while keeping the role of indigenous peoples in the design, implementation and evaluation of the joint programmes in mind. Staff and senior representatives from United Nations agencies were also present, as well as high-level Government officials from Denmark and Finland, who participated as donors and observers.

13. The Chair of the Permanent Forum was also present and expressed her appreciation for the senior-level United Nations representation at the meeting of the Policy Board, as it demonstrated a serious commitment on the part of the Organization. The Chair also stated that she was counting on the United Nations Indigenous Peoples' Partnership to facilitate the implementation of the recommendations of the Forum by United Nations country teams and encouraged the Partnership to consider priorities in view of the regional and global initiatives, including the 2014 World Conference on Indigenous Peoples.

## B. Environment

14. In January 2011, an Expert Group Meeting on Indigenous Peoples and Forests was held at United Nations Headquarters in New York. The meeting was attended by members of the Permanent Forum, seven experts from the seven sociocultural regions of the Permanent Forum and by representatives of States, United Nations agencies, academia, and indigenous peoples' organizations. At the meeting experts called upon States to recognize the right of indigenous peoples and forest dependent communities, and their right to inclusion in the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and the commemoration of the International Year of Forests, 2011. The experts also called upon United Nations agencies to undertake a compilation of good practices on forests and indigenous peoples as well as a compilation of relevant provisions of United Nations human rights instruments for advocating, defending and promoting indigenous peoples' rights to lands, territories and resources. The report of the meeting was submitted to the tenth session of the Permanent Forum in May 2011.[3]

15. During the tenth session, a half-day discussion was held on the right to water. The panel for the discussion on the right to water was composed of Ms. Caterina de Albuquerque, Special Rapporteur on the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation; Mr. Pablo Solon, the Permanent Representative of the Plurinational State of Bolivia to the United Nations; Ms. Aicha Chiek Salah, representative of the Tidawt Organization of Niger, and Mr. Bertie Xavier, member of the Permanent Forum. The Special Rapporteur stressed that she regularly receives information about threats to indigenous rights, including concerns about the pollution of water

[3] E/C.19/2011/5.

sources. The Special Rapporteur also received numerous reports about the impact of mining operations, including from uranium mining in the United States and bauxite mining in India. She stated indigenous peoples face severe challenges to their rights to access clean water, as well as to their lives and cultures. The Permanent Forum urged States to recognize and protect indigenous peoples' cultural right to water and, through legislation and policy, to support the right of indigenous peoples to hunt and gather food resources from waters used for cultural, economic and commercial purposes.[4]

16. Ms. Valmaine Toki, a member of the Permanent Forum, participated in a meeting organized by WIPO on 18 July 2011 in Geneva, on the theme "making sui generis protection work: best practices in community-led strategies for the protection of traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions". Ms. Toki joined other panellists, including Mr. William Collin Louw, Chair of the Working Group of Indigenous Minorities in Southern Africa, and Ms. Lucia Fernando Inacio Belfort, Executive Director of Instituto Indigena Brasileiro para Propriedade Intelectual.

17. In September 2011, Ms. Dalee Sambo Dorough, a member of the Permanent Forum, was the keynote speaker at the sixth Northern Research Forum Open Assembly, entitled "Our ice-dependent world", which was held in Hverageroi, Iceland. Ms. Dorough presented a paper on the interrelated implications of ice melt for indigenous peoples. The objective of the Forum was to address the impact of dwindling ice — both terrestrial (the Arctic, the Himalayans and Antarctica) and ocean bound — on the complex interface of nature and society in all climatic zones of the world.

18. The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, which is being held pursuant to General Assembly resolution 64/236, will take place in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 20 to 22 June 2012. The Conference will mark the twentieth anniversary of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, and the tenth anniversary of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, held in Johannesburg in 2002.

19. The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, which has the objective of securing renewed political commitment for sustainable development, assessing progress to date as well as remaining gaps in the implementation of the outcomes of the major summits on sustainable development and addressing new and emerging challenges, will focus on two themes:

(a) A green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication;

(b) The institutional framework for sustainable development.

20. Indigenous peoples will be able to participate in the upcoming United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, providing they have registered and been accredited with the United Nations, as part of the "major groups", which includes indigenous peoples. The organizing partners for the Conference are the Tebtebba Foundation and the Indigenous Environmental Network.

21. From 22 to 24 August 2011, the Global Preparatory Meeting of Indigenous Peoples on the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development was held in

[4] E/2011/43, para. 82.

Manaus, Brazil. Six members of the Permanent Forum attended the meeting. The objective of the meeting was to: consider positions for indigenous peoples to participate in the process towards the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development; develop ongoing strategies, taking into account the local, regional and global contexts of the indigenous peoples' agenda in relation to the progress and challenges of the Conference; create joint positions and proposals addressing specific issues to be discussed at the Conference, including issues of fundamental importance to indigenous peoples; contribute to the development of concepts on sustainable development that take into account the notion of development with culture and identity that responds to indigenous peoples and their societies; and contribute, through knowledge and life experiences, towards enriching the economic aspect of the sustainable development agenda.

## C. Education

22. During its comprehensive dialogue at its tenth session, the Permanent Forum requested both UNICEF and UNESCO to support intercultural and bilingual education programmes in conjunction with the indigenous peoples concerned, paying special attention to the right of girls to primary and secondary education.[5]

23. For the past 12 years, since its proclamation by the General Conference in 1999, UNESCO has celebrated International Mother Language Day, an event dedicated to the protection of linguistic diversity.

24. While the annual celebration is launched by UNESCO, it is the Member States worldwide who are the key players, through their national institutions and associations, in promoting the event. In addition, widespread media interest and the activities of schools, universities and cultural associations play an active part in promoting the goals of International Mother Language Day.

25. The goal of International Mother Language Day in 2012 was to promote linguistic diversity and multilingual education and to develop awareness of linguistic and cultural traditions based on understanding, tolerance and dialogue. In her message on the occasion of International Mother Language Day, the Director-General of UNESCO stated that "This thirteenth celebration is dedicated to multilingualism for inclusive education. The work of researchers and the impact of multilingualism policies have proven that people perceive intuitively that linguistic diversity accelerates the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and Education for All goals in particular. Use of the mother tongue at school is a powerful remedy against illiteracy. The challenge, however, lies in achieving this truth in the classroom. Excluded population groups, such as indigenous peoples, are often those whose mother tongues are ignored by education systems. Allowing them to learn from a very early age in their mother tongue, and then in national, official or other languages, promotes equality and social inclusion".[6]

[5] E/2011/43, para. 75.

[6] See http://www.unesco.org/images/0021/002153/215319e.pdf.

## D. Health

26. The health and lives of indigenous peoples are severely threatened by non-communicable dis es. In countries where disaggregated data are available, there are increasing rates of premature death from lung cancer, diabetes and heart and cardiovascular diseases, and there is a noticeable health gap between indigenous and non-indigenous populations. Indigenous peoples are particularly vulnerable to diabetes as a result of environmental, genetic and socio-economic factors, including a lack of access to health services. The contamination and destruction of natural habitats and the disappearance of plants and animals, and changes in lifestyle due to migration or displacement from rural to urban areas are also major risk factors for diabetes.

27. During the tenth session of the Permanent Forum, the Chair of the Forum participated at an event, jointly organized by the World Health Organization (WHO), the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and the Non-Communicable Diseases Alliance, on addressing the threat of non-communicable diseases among indigenous peoples. The panel served as a platform for consultation with indigenous peoples in preparation for the high-level meeting on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases that took place in September 2011 at United Nations Headquarters in New York.

28. In early March 2012, Paimaneh Hasteh, a member of the Permanent Forum, participated in an expert meeting on indigenous peoples, diabetes and development, organized by the World Diabetes Foundation and the International Diabetes Federation in Copenhagen. The meeting addressed the burden of diabetes and related non-communicable diseases among indigenous peoples and its implications in undermining the achievement of Millennium Development Goals.

29. HIV/AIDS is of major concern for indigenous peoples' and their communities. There are key factors that render indigenous peoples acutely vulnerable to this epidemic: poverty, marginalization, lack of political or social power, fragmentation of family and community relationships, geographical isolation, low literacy rates, poor general health, limited access to health care and drug use. Maternal HIV infection has particular importance to infants and young children because of increased risk of perinatal mortality, trans-placental transmission of the virus and the probability of premature maternal death. Stigma, silence, discrimination, privacy issues and denial of psychosocial and medical services, including antiretroviral treatment, undermines prevention and care efforts. Indigenous youth and women, who may have limited power to refuse sex or negotiate safer sex, are increasingly affected. Protecting indigenous peoples living with or affected by HIV and preventing its further spread is a major development and human rights challenge.

## E. Culture

30. As part of its 2011 celebration of World Science Day for Peace and Development, UNESCO organized a side-event in November 2011 on the theme "Knowledge systems, knowledge diversity, knowledge societies: towards a UNESCO policy on engaging with indigenous peoples". The goal of the event was to create awareness and support for its policy on indigenous peoples' development. The Chair of the Permanent Forum, the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples and the Chair of the United Nations Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples participated in the event.

31. In her address to UNESCO, the Chair highlighted the important relationship that exists between indigenous peoples' traditional knowledge and the UNESCO World Heritage processes owing to the conservation role that indigenous peoples play in the managing of World Heritage sites. She also raised a number of issues in relation to World Heritage processes, including the lack of recognition of the rights of indigenous peoples in the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage and its Operational Guidelines. The Convention does not differentiate between "cultural" heritage and "natural" heritage, a distinction that can be problematic for World Heritage sites located on indigenous peoples' lands and territories because indigenous peoples' lives and spiritual beliefs are inseparable from their lands, territories and natural resources. In efforts to promote the implementation of the provisions of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples through the mobilization, inter alia, of financial cooperation and technical assistance, as provided in its article 41, the Chair called on the entities of the United Nations system to embrace indigenous peoples' rights within existing international standards, in particular the World Heritage Convention, and to involve indigenous peoples in identification, nomination, protection and management of World Heritage sites. She stated that consideration of those issues would advance recognition of the role of indigenous peoples and build more effective systems within the World Heritage process.

## F. Human rights

32. In November and December 2010, the United States and Canada, two countries that had previously voted against the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, made separate announcements endorsing it. On both occasions, statements were made by the Chair and the Vice-Chair of the Permanent Forum welcoming the increasing support for the Declaration.

33. At its tenth session, the Permanent Forum pointed out that violence and brutality, continuing assimilation policies, marginalization, dispossession of land, forced removal or relocation, denial of land rights, the impact of large-scale development, abuses by military forces, armed conflict and a host of other abuses are a reality for indigenous peoples and their communities around the world. In this regard, the Forum considers the promotion and implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples to be extremely important. The Forum considers that States, in conjunction with indigenous peoples, need to establish national initiatives, programmes and plans of work to implement the Declaration, including clear timelines and priorities. It was also recommended that progress and shortcomings in the implementation of the Declaration should be reported to the Forum.

34. The implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples is an area of increasing interest to the Permanent Forum, the Special Rapporteur on rights of indigenous peoples and the Expert Mechanism of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Collaboration among the three mechanisms has improved considerably, with the Special Rapporteur and the Chair of the Expert Mechanism participating in the tenth session of the Forum. A member of the Permanent Forum and the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples also participated in the fourth session of the Expert Mechanism on the Right of Indigenous Peoples in Geneva in July 2011. Coordination meetings between the

three mechanisms to discuss their respective areas of work and cooperation in future activities were held in July 2011 in Geneva and in New York in January 2012.

35. In October 2011, a meeting was held under the leadership of the Chair of the Permanent Forum between staff of OHCHR, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the Inter-Parliamentary Union on the preparation of a handbook for parliamentarians. The handbook will be an important instrument for the work of legislators in implementing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples at the national, regional and local levels.

36. As previously stated, the implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples is an important part of the work of the Permanent Forum, and its members continue to participate in meetings to advocate for its full implementation, including at the conference organized in New York by the International Centre for Transitional Justice in July 2011 on the design of truth commissions to support indigenous people's rights and at the meeting between representatives of the Government of Canada and First Nations peoples to discuss the implementation of the Declaration.

## G. Awareness-raising, information and production of materials and events

### International Day of Indigenous Peoples

37. On 9 August 2011, the seventeenth International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples was commemorated at United Nations Headquarters in New York. The event, which was attended by around 100 people, was organized by the secretariat of the Permanent Forum, in close cooperation with the Department of Public Information and the NGO Committee on the International Decade of the World's Indigenous Peoples. The message of the Secretary-General was to "encourage all Member States to take concrete steps to address the challenges facing indigenous peoples — including marginalization, extreme poverty and loss of lands, territories and resources. Countries should also commit to ending the grave human rights abuses that indigenous peoples encounter in many parts of the world".[7]

38. The President of the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly, Joseph Deiss, emphasized the need to support indigenous peoples in their struggle to protect their rights to their art, culture and identity and ensure that this is part of environmental sustainability and social responsibility.[8]

39. The Government of the Congo also celebrated the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples, on 5 August. Mr. Simon M'Viboudoulou, in his capacity as a member of the Permanent Forum, joined representatives from United Nations agencies, indigenous peoples' communities and non-governmental organizations in a round-table discussion and a talk show as well as in a visit to a remote indigenous community outside of the capital city Brazzaville.

[7] http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/documents/int_day_2011_SG_en.pdf

[8] http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/documents/int_day_2011_message_PGA.pdf.

**Materials produced**

40. The secretariat of the Permanent Forum has released various informational and specialized materials and publications, which can also be found on its website. Some of its recent publications include:

(a) "Training Module on Indigenous Peoples' Issues: Facilitator's Handbook" (in English, Spanish and French): the training module, published in 2010 and 2011, aims to strengthen the capacity of United Nations staff in implementing relevant projects and policies on indigenous peoples as well as in mainstreaming indigenous peoples' issues into their work;

(b) "Briefing Notes on Gender and Indigenous Peoples": the briefing notes (No. 1-6), published in 2010, provide an overview of why gender perspectives are important in the areas of economic and social development; education; culture; environment and human rights.

## II. Promotion of the integration and coordination of indigenous issues

41. The Permanent Forum and its secretariat continue to work closely with the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Peoples' Issues. The Support Group plays a key role in mainstreaming indigenous peoples' issues and in disseminating information about the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples throughout the United Nations system. The 2011 meeting of the Support Group, hosted by UNFPA, was held in New York. The main objective of the meeting was to enhance coordination among members of the Support Group, including the Permanent Forum and its secretariat; to generate a space for reporting on specific recommendations of the Forum to United Nations agencies; and to share knowledge on the work that the different United Nations agencies are carrying out at global, regional and national levels on population related matters. The Chair of the Permanent Forum and a member of the Forum attended the meeting.

42. Participants in the meeting of the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Peoples' Issues addressed the issue of indigenous peoples' right to health, with an emphasis on reproductive health services for indigenous women, including the need to reduce maternal mortality and morbidity and the unmet need for voluntary family planning. The valuable experiences of some agencies, and the knowledge based on their work in Africa, Asia and Latin America, highlight the importance of awareness of culturally acceptable approaches in addressing indigenous women's health. Despite the fact that there is formal recognition of indigenous peoples' right to health in many Latin American countries, there are still major gaps in regards to the well-being of indigenous women and adolescent girls.

43. The Millennium Development Goals, especially Goal 1 on ending poverty and hunger, was one of the areas discussed during the meeting of the Inter-Agency Support Group. Concern was raised about the need to frame the Goals from a human rights-based agenda, in particular when referring to the development of indigenous peoples. In addition, it was pointed out that the importance of lands and resources, culture, identity and self-determination are frequently ignored in the Goals. A major concern is that matters of importance to indigenous peoples are not in evidence within the Goals, and that reviews on the achievement of the Goals in some countries indicate that indigenous peoples are not even mentioned in country reports.

44. During the meeting of the Inter-Agency Support Group, many agencies provided comprehensive updates on their areas of work in relation to indigenous peoples. Major outcomes of the meeting included the need for consultation with indigenous peoples when United Nations agencies are formulating recommendations and for enhanced dialogue between the members of the Permanent Forum and United Nations agencies to ensure compliance in reporting on Agency-specific recommendations. There is also a need for increased dialogue regarding follow-up to recommendations made to inter-agency mechanisms, including the Support Group.

**United Nations Development Group: training**

45. Following its meeting in July 2006, at which the United Nations Development Group recommended that the Inter-Agency Support Group provide support and guidance for mainstreaming and integrating indigenous peoples' issues into the United Nations operational activities, working through existing mechanisms and procedures, the Development Group established a task team on indigenous issues.

46. In 2007, the task team developed Guidelines on Indigenous Peoples' Issues (see http://www.undg.org/index.cfm?P=270) which were adopted by the United Nations Development Group and became operational in February 2008, to promote the inclusion of indigenous peoples' issues and adherence to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples within the United Nations system. An action plan on the roll-out of the Guidelines was launched.

47. The objectives of the action plan is to ensure incorporation of indigenous peoples' issues into the policy and programming process at the national level, including the common country assessment/United Nations Development Assistance Framework process, and to assist the United Nations system in mainstreaming and integrating indigenous issues into its activities and programmes, in accordance with the Guidelines on Indigenous Peoples' Issues. Building the capacity of United Nations staff, Governments and indigenous peoples has been an important area of work of the secretariat of the Permanent Forum.

48. In October 2011, the secretariat of the Permanent Forum organized a workshop in Buenos Aires as part of the ongoing efforts to train United Nations country teams on the integration of indigenous peoples' issues into country policies and programmes. The following United Nations agencies took part in the workshop: UNFPA, the International Organization for Migration, UNICEF, FAO, UNDP, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and the Pan American Health Organization.

49. In November 2011, the secretariat of the Permanent Forum organized a training workshop, in Brazzaville, the Congo, in close cooperation with the United Nations country team, UNICEF, UNDP, the International Labour Organization (ILO) and OHCHR. Mr. M'Viboudoulou, a member of the Forum, was a key resource person at the training workshop and gave a presentation on the work of the Forum.

50. The training workshop was attended by Government officials and some parliamentarians directly involved in the implementation of Law No. 5-2011 of 25 February 2011 and the national action plan, which promotes and protects the rights of indigenous peoples; representatives of the United Nations country team; and indigenous peoples from various provinces of the Congo, including the National Network of Indigenous Peoples of the Congo. The aim of the workshop was to

facilitate the integration of the human rights-based approach to development for mainstreaming indigenous peoples' issues in the work of the United Nations country team, especially with reference to the elaboration of the common country assessment and for the review of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework at the country level. The dialogue among United Nations agencies (UNFPA, UN-Women, UNDP, UNICEF and the OHCHR regional office in Cameroon), Government officials and indigenous peoples contributed to identifying challenges in the implementation of Law No. 5-2011 on indigenous peoples and possible strategies for achieving the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples as well as their free, prior and informed consent in decision-making processes.

51. In December 2011, with the support of the Technical Cooperation Unit of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the United Nations country team in the Philippines, the secretariat of the Permanent Forum conducted a training workshop in Manila. The workshop, which was attended by 28 indigenous peoples' representatives and 25 Government officials, included an overview of the three United Nations mechanisms on indigenous peoples and the implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The United Nations human rights-based approach to development, ILO Convention No. 169 on indigenous and tribal peoples of 1989 and national legislation on indigenous peoples were also discussed at the workshop.

52. In January 2012, a training workshop was held in Bangui. The training included staff members from United Nations agencies such as the World Health Organization, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, UNFPA, UNICEF, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), UNESCO, FAO, the World Food Programme (WFP), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), OHCHR and the Regional Coordinator's Office. Although staff were aware of the presence of indigenous communities in the Central African Republic, they were interested in learning more about them and their societies, including the wider issues affecting them. The goal was to achieve mainstreaming of indigenous peoples' issues in the work of the United Nations country team at the country level, as well as during the elaboration of the common country assessment/United Nations Development Assistance Framework process, as well as in all phases of programme and project cycle management. It was fortunate that indigenous peoples attended the workshop to present their issues and that United Nations staff were able to hear first-hand accounts and to engage in conversation with them. The dialogue was very constructive and formed a basis for further cooperation at the country level.

## I. Indigenous children and youth

53. The Permanent Forum continues to work with UNICEF to ensure that the voices of indigenous youth are heard in the public sphere. In July 2011, UNICEF provided support to Crystal Lee, a young Navajo woman from the State of Arizona, United States, at a United Nations high-level meeting on youth, which took place in New York. On behalf of indigenous youth and the United Nations Indigenous Youth Caucus, Ms. Lee made an intervention at the General Assembly where she called for the effective participation of indigenous youth in international decision-making. Ms. Lee, who is actively engaged in supporting indigenous youth, founded United

Natives Inc., an online mentoring programme for Native American undergraduate students.

54. At its tenth session, the Permanent Forum held a comprehensive dialogue with UNICEF and subsequently issued 16 recommendations to UNICEF (E/C.19/2011/7). Many of the recommendations have been addressed in a report by UNICEF which will be posted on the website of the Forum. In August 2011, in follow-up to the recommendations of the Forum, the Chair of the Forum briefed UNICEF offices in Latin America on United Nations mechanisms on the rights of indigenous peoples and implementation of the recommendations of the Forum.

55. The Permanent Forum and its secretariat are working with UNICEF in the preparation of a version of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples for children and youth. In February 2012, staff of the secretariat and UNICEF participated in the pre-testing of the draft adolescent-friendly version of the Declaration with indigenous youth at the Seneca Nation in the State of New York. The secretariat is also working with high school teachers and students within the Seneca Nation on a model Forum.

56. The secretariat of the Permanent Forum continues to participate in the Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development, incorporating indigenous youth issues into its work. In addition, the secretariat maintains regular contact with the Global Indigenous Youth Caucus, particularly during the sessions of the Forum.

## J. Indigenous women

### Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality

57. In June 2011, the secretariat of the Permanent Forum rejoined the Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality and became a member of its Task Force on Indigenous Women in order to integrate and strengthen gender mainstreaming with regard to indigenous women's roles and the special concerns of indigenous women as an emerging key issue in the work of the United Nations system, taking into account the recommendations of the Forum at its third and tenth sessions.

58. The Task Force on Indigenous Women includes the active participation of the secretariat of the Permanent Forum. The secretariat has also provided case studies of good practices on ways to engage indigenous women into the work of the Forum. These contributions have been posted on the WomenWatch website for the fifty-seventh session of the Commission on the Status of Women.[9]

### Expert group meeting on enabling rural women's economic empowerment: institutions, opportunities and participation

59. In September 2011, UN-Women, in collaboration with FAO, IFAD and WFP, convened an expert group meeting on "Enabling rural women's economic empowerment: institutions, opportunities and participation" in Accra. The Chair of the Permanent Forum participated in the expert group meeting where she discussed some of the demands and experiences of rural indigenous women, in particular, their experiences as a result of institutional policies directed towards them. She also highlighted participatory strategies and proposals that have been promoted by

[9] http://www.un.org/womenwatch/feature/ruralwomen/spfii-comparative-advantage.html.

indigenous women within their own organizations to improve their living and working conditions in rural areas.

**Capacity-building for indigenous women**

60. The Chair of the Permanent Forum and staff of the secretariat participated in a capacity-building meeting entitled "Women working together towards the full enjoyment of our rights", held in December 2011 in Chiapas, Mexico. The meeting was organized by the Comisión Nacional de desarrollo de los Pueblos Indígenas, UN-Women, the UNDP office in Mexico, the Alianza de Mujeres Indígenas de Centroamérica y México, the Centro de Investigaciones y Estudios Superiores en Antropologia Social, the Cátedra Indígena Itinerante de la Universidad Indígena Intercultural and the Fondo Indígena. This meeting was part of the certificate programme on empowering indigenous women in Mexico.

61. The capacity-building meeting, attended by some 70 indigenous women leaders from Latin and Central America, was intended to provide an overview and tools to advance the rights and effective participation of indigenous women in the local, regional and international processes of policy setting and decision-making. The secretariat of the Permanent Forum also conducted a session on international human rights instruments on indigenous peoples' rights, in particular the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

**UN-Women and indigenous women**

62. During the tenth session, the Chair of the Permanent Forum and members of the Forum met with Michelle Bachelet, Executive Director of UN-Women, to explore how UN-Women and the Forum can cooperate to promote indigenous women's rights.

**International expert group meeting, "Combating violence against indigenous women and girls: article 22 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples"**

63. A three-day international expert group meeting on the theme "Combating violence against indigenous women and girls: article 22 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples" was organized following a recommendation of the Permanent Forum at its tenth session. The results of the meeting will be presented to the eleventh session of the Permanent Forum (see E/C.19/2012/6). The expert group meeting was attended by four members of the Forum, seven experts from the Forum's seven sociocultural regions, 25 States, 10 United Nations agencies, funds and programmes and 50 representatives of indigenous peoples' organizations. Presentations and discussion focused on the following themes: addressing violence against indigenous women and girls as a human rights issue; context and manifestations of violence; issues of jurisdiction and policing; and anti-violence strategies.

# IV. United Nations Trust Fund on Indigenous Issues

64. In accordance with General Assembly resolutions 57/191 and 59/174, the United Nations Trust Fund on Indigenous Issues provides support for the activities of the Permanent Forum and for projects and programmes undertaken during the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People.

65. In 2010 and 2011, the Trust Fund received contributions from Canada, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Madagascar and the United States for the funding of general activities relating to the Forum.

66. During 2010 and 2011, the Trust Fund supported missions by members of the Forum to meetings that were of relevance to its mandate as well as to implement its recommendations. These missions provided members with the opportunity to raise awareness and to promote the integration and coordination of activities relating to indigenous issues.

67. In 2010-2011, the Trust Fund supported: the travel of newly elected members of the Permanent Forum for their presessional meeting in Ottawa; the organization of expert group meetings; the provision of translation services during the tenth session of the Forum for in-session documents; and the provision of technical services related to special events held in conjunction with the sessions, such as the side events and the launch of the publication *State of the World's Indigenous Peoples*. The Fund also supported cultural events to commemorate the International Day of the World's Indigenous People.

68. In 2009, the Trust Fund received a multi-year grant from IFAD (2009-2010) to support the advisory and information mandate of the Permanent Forum. Within the framework of the plan of action for the roll-out and implementation of the United Nations Development Group's Guidelines on Indigenous Peoples' Issues, the grant is to support the Forum's project on capacity development at the country level for improved dissemination and implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

69. Through the IFAD multi-year grant, during 2010 to early 2012, the secretariat of the Permanent Forum provided capacity development activities for United Nations country teams and government agencies and indigenous peoples' organizations. Training workshops took place in Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Cambodia, the Central African Republic, the Congo, Ecuador, Guyana and the Philippines.

70. In 2010 and 2011, the Trust Fund received contributions from Denmark, Ecuador, Estonia, Germany and the Philippines for funding small grants related to the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People. Members of the Bureau of the Permanent Forum, acting as the advisory group, held a meeting in May 2011 to review all the project proposals received. At that meeting, 10 projects and eight alternative projects were approved by the Bureau for endorsement by the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, acting as the coordinator of the Second International Decade. Each year, in response to a call for proposals, the Forum receives a large number of project proposals, an indication of the continuing need to support indigenous peoples in implementing their own priorities for development.

## V. Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People

71. The Secretary-General's report on the midterm assessment of the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People (A/65/166) was submitted to the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session in accordance with Assembly resolution 63/161.

72. The midterm assessment report of the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People was prepared on the basis of information received from organizations of the United Nations system, other international organizations and the United Nations Secretariat. It provides an analysis and good examples of the progress made towards the achievement of the goals and objectives of the Decade and includes summaries of the information received from 11 Member States, 19 United Nations agencies and other intergovernmental organizations and 11 non-governmental and indigenous organizations.

73. The report concluded that substantive advances have been made towards achievement of the goal and objectives of the Decade. While it acknowledged the importance of the adoption of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in 2007 and the role it has played in the consolidation of a human rights-based approach to indigenous peoples' issues at the intergovernmental and national level, the report also identified a substantial gap between intentions at the policy level and the actual implementation of specific objectives of the Second Decade. In its conclusion, the report emphasized that further efforts must be made to transform initiatives at the policy level into effective action for and with indigenous peoples.